

# USDA 2007 FARM BILL FORUM in NEBRASKA

Sept. 15, 2005

Please respond to the following six questions. Space permits (below or reverse side) to respond, or add your own comments about other 2007 farm bill suggestions.

- 1) How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers/ranchers and the next generation of farmers/ranchers from entering production agriculture?

Provide sufficient money to fund programs with enough additional to meet unforeseen weather, crop price declines to keep the programs throughout the effective farm bill years. Be able to provide consistency.

- 2) How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

Consumers should be given the information needed to support US products. Provide true information about subsidies given by foreign countries to their producers to combat criticisms of US in the WTO. Stand up for U.S. not act as the poor beggar!! We aren't destitute like we act.

- 3) How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

Limit supports & total payments per individual producer to enable the funds to more adequately keep all producers in business. The Farm Bureau, as often as not, doesn't reflect the feelings of its own rank & file members. Use input from a variety of farm groups & don't make last minute decisions based upon Farm Bureau executive directives!

- 4) How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

In too many areas, water is becoming too precious to allow land and water to be allocated to housing development using good farmland & reducing availability of water. Many areas in semi-arid regions are being rapidly developed & water is not available in minimum amounts. Restrict development.

- 5) How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Provide for well funded extension depts. and make certain they are effective. Rural areas have a great need for all H.S. teachers to understand the agriculture of their areas. Ag in almost all H.S. classrooms is ignored in science, math, history, English, business etc etc. Funding & training is needed for stress, meditation, training of specialists to aid producers.

- 6) How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

All of the above should be primarily promoted for and accomplished by non-biased researchers who are not funded by special interest businesses as has been done in the past. We need to insure that our markets become open & laws against concentration begin to be enforced!

The public is welcome to submit their comments via the USDA Farm Bill Forums website at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or by mailing comments to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Farm Bill, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-3355. Comments should be submitted by Dec. 30, 2005.

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